

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 /081 W

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P R 271530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2443

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2226

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EGEN

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL: MEETINGS
IN CAIRO.

REF: CAIRO 2217

1. AT CONCLUSION OF FEB 27 COMMISSION MEETING,
COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHGOUB MADE WHAT ARE REPORTED
TO BE CALM AND RATIONAL REMARKS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION
ASKING FOR HIS VIEWS ON COMMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD
AND SENATOR CHURCH. WITHOUT NAMING THE PRESIDENT,
MAHGOUB APPARENTLY SAID THAT EVERYONE SHOULD REALIZE
THAT BOYCOTT IS A LEGITIMATE AND LEGAL MEANS OF
SELF-DEFENSE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A FORCE FOR
PEACE IN THE ME. ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS,
ON OTHER HAND, IS FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.
IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO ASK ARABS TO ASSIST IN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAEL BY PUTTING THEIR FUNDS INTO HANDS
OF COMPANIES THAT SUPPORT OR ASSIST HER, AND BLACKLIST

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IS ONE MEANS OF BRINGING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

2. WHEN ASKED IF SENATOR CHURCH'S ESTIMATE OF 1,500 COMPANIES ON LIST WAS CORRECT, MAHGOUB REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THAT WAS TOTAL NUMBER, BUT HE SAID COMMISSION WAS PREPARED TO LACKLIST "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS" IF THEY VIOLATED BOYCOTT RULES. HE WENT ON TO REITERATE CLAIM THAT BOYCOTT IS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC, IT IS ANTI-ISRAELI AGRESSION ONLY.

3. IN OTHER ACTIONS, COMMISSION ADDED THREE FIRMS TO LIST (NONE US), DELETED THREE INCLUDING FRANCO MFG CO AND THIRD CHEMICAL BANK (SIC), AND CONSIDERED APPLICATIONS OF NINE WHO WISH TO GET OFF, INCLUDING SMITH CORONA MERCHANT.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE TOLD THAT MAHGOUB BEHAVED WITH RESTRAINT AT PRESS SESSION AND REFUSED TO BE BAITED INTO PROVOCATIVE OR OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS. HE REPORTEDLY ALSO REFUSED TO AIM HIS REMARKS AT ANY INDIVIDUALS IN PARTICULAR, ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS WERE POSED IN A MANNER THAT ENCOURAGED IT.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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05 JUL 2006

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